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April 6 - 9, 2004

CALI

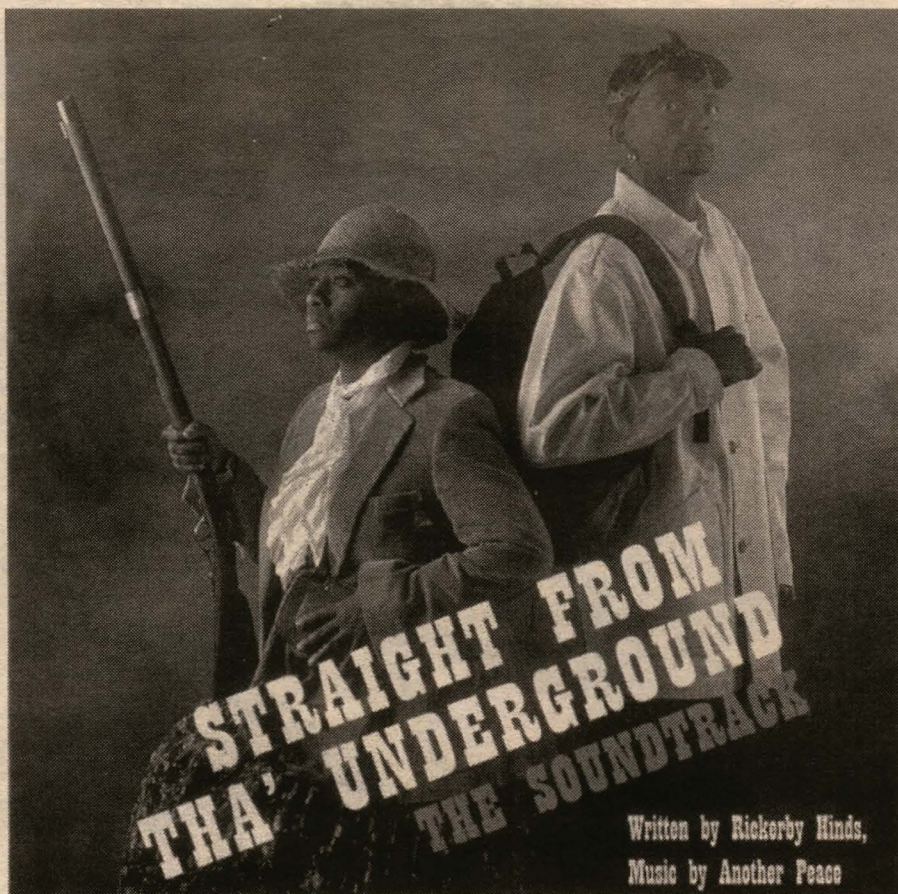
HIPHOP

THEATER
FESTIVAL

APRIL 6 TO 9 @ UCR

<http://theatre.ucr.edu/hiphop>

www.theatre.ucr.edu/hiphop



For Bookings Contact: Tony Tyler (909) 352-3264 • tonytyler@aol.com



Rock and Rap confidential described Besskepps' 1st CD Bluze Langwij as "The most musical mixture of spoken word with the instrumental truth..."

SPECIAL THANKS

The Center For Ideas and Society
 The Black Voice News
 Red Bull
 UCR Theater Department
 James White
 Demos Franklin
 Mark Gonzales
 Magwa Ibrahim
 Moufaahza
 Donna Taylor
 Stephon Randolph
 Derek McGee
 Daina Decker
 Kellie Porter
 Cheryl Brown
 Another Peace
 Marc Woodson



from the producer

STALKIN THE STAGE

As the curtain rises on hip hop drama we see plays with raps, plays with a hip hop beat, plays with hip hop influenced clothes, plays addressing some of the controversy ascribed to the music of this generation. But hip hop drama is much more than throwin' a rap or a brotha saggin' in the middle of a play just for effect. As hip hop drama grows we'll not only discover new and innovative ways of exploring while employing aspects of its culture, but we'll also discover ways of rushin' theater stages with the same hip hop sensibility that turned two turntables into a band.

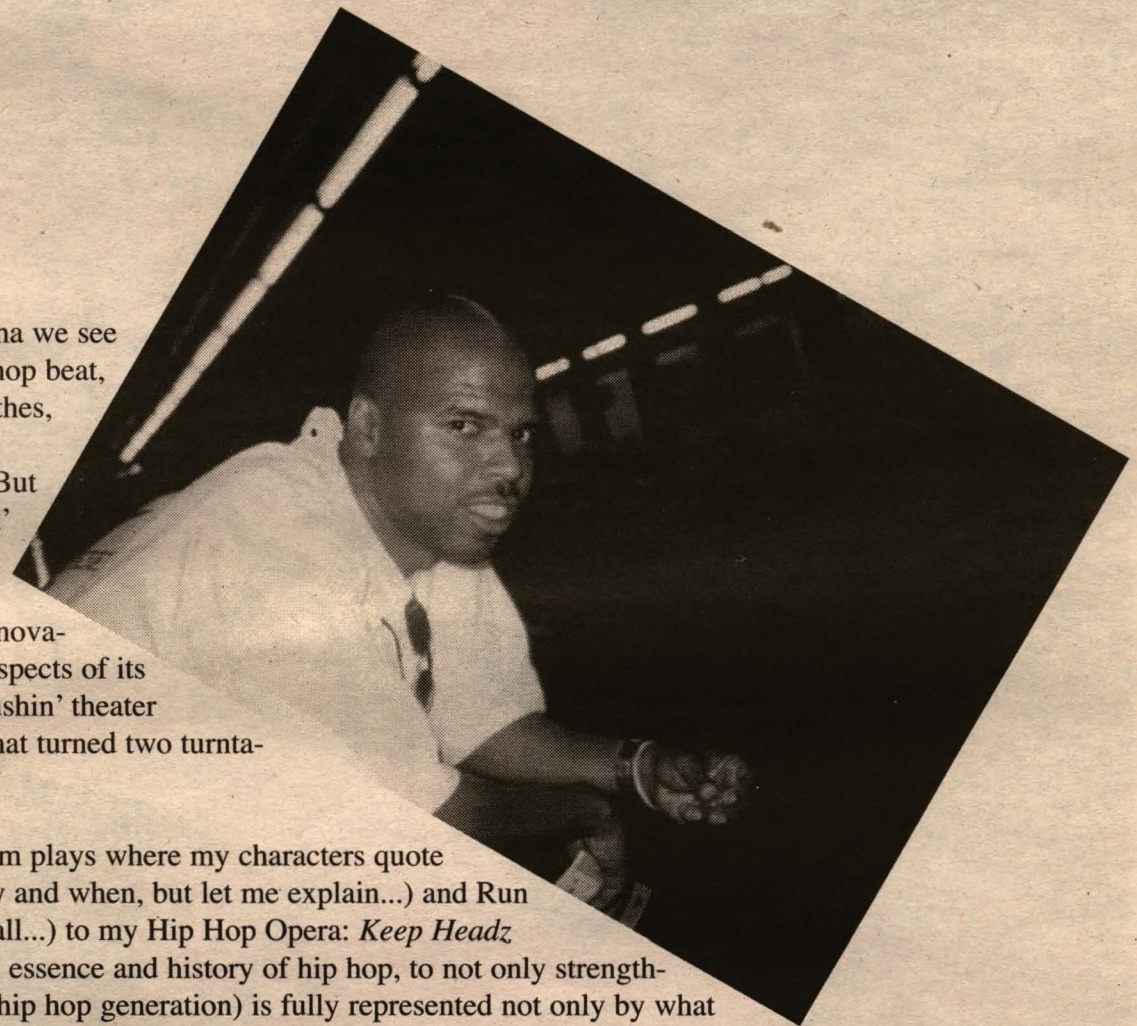
I consider my work Hip Hop Drama. From plays where my characters quote KRS-ONE (Let us begin, what where why and when, but let me explain...) and Run DMC (ya know I'm proud to be Black y'all...) to my Hip Hop Opera: *Keep Headz Ringin'*, my work draws on the dynamics, essence and history of hip hop, to not only strengthen it, but to ensure that my audience (the hip hop generation) is fully represented not only by what is seen, but equally by what's said. In the same way that hip hop samples beats, words and sounds, in my work I find it effective and powerful to weave disparate elements from (post) modern culture. One example of this is in the play *Blackballin'* where I feature a "Talking Backboard" cut from a lynching tree to school a college basketball player on his dim future. This backboard employs everything from rap lyrics, the dozens, to a TV game show to make its point. The same play re-writes the "Battle Royal" scene from Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* by thrusting the blindfolded boxer into the blinding flicker of Hollywood cinema, drawing distinct and explicit parallels between the two American obsessions.

This, I submit, is theater designed with the hip hop generation in mind. Theater that not only provokes thought, but promotes thinking.

As hip hop heads get older some of us are in our late thirties and forties now some of the things that we are wanting to express can't be confined to expression through only one element (hip hop music). Theatre allows us to employ many of the elements simultaneously in order to best say what we have to say. Festivals like the The Cali (ie) Hip Hop Theatre Festival are a great way of introducing those outside of the culture to it, as well as speaking to and for those of us who are in it."

In past years, The Cali (ie) Hip Hop Theatre Festival has featured artists such as Will Power, Danny Hoch, Jonzi D, Aya De Leon, Kamilah Forbes, Mark Gonzales, Bess Kepp and graffiti artist Archer.

This year, the festival will focus on local artists including: A Mic and Dim Lights Alumni, Nikol Hodges and Mark Gonzales. Participants will also be given the opportunity to explore hip hop elements up close through workshop and conversations with artists.



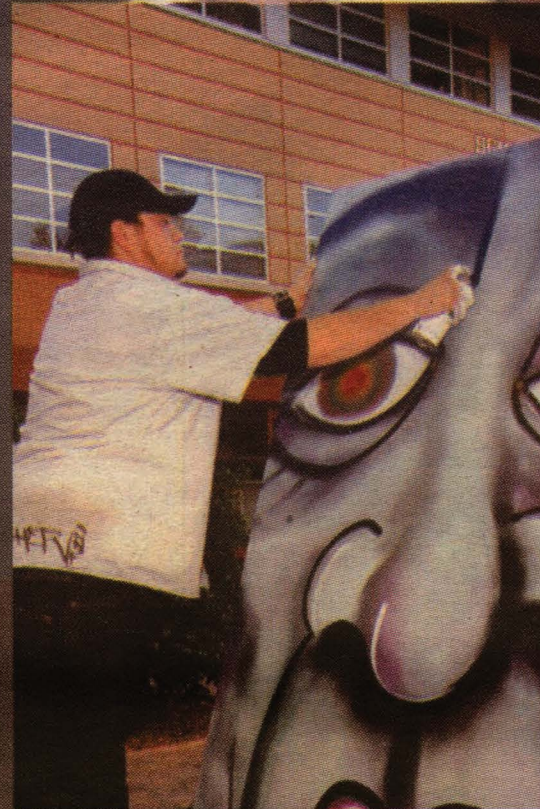
Cali(ie) Hip Hop Theatre Festival

Photos by MPB Creative Services

TUESDAY APRIL 6, 8PM THA PANEL

A panel of Hip-Hop artists will sample their work then offer the audience personal insight and in its relationship to Hip Hop.

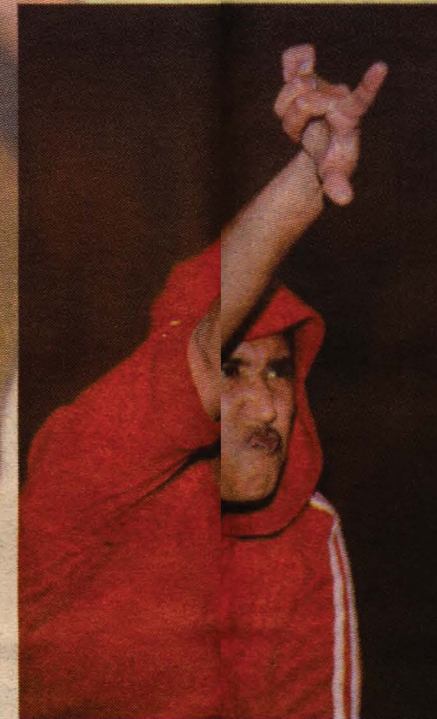
Theatre Lab, Humn 411
UC Riverside



WEDNESDAY APRIL 7, 8PM THA PERFORMANCE

A special evening of Hip-Hop theater performances featuring excerpts from the works of Rickerby Hinds: "Keep Hedz Ringing" - "Straight From Tha Underground" "Ten2midnight."

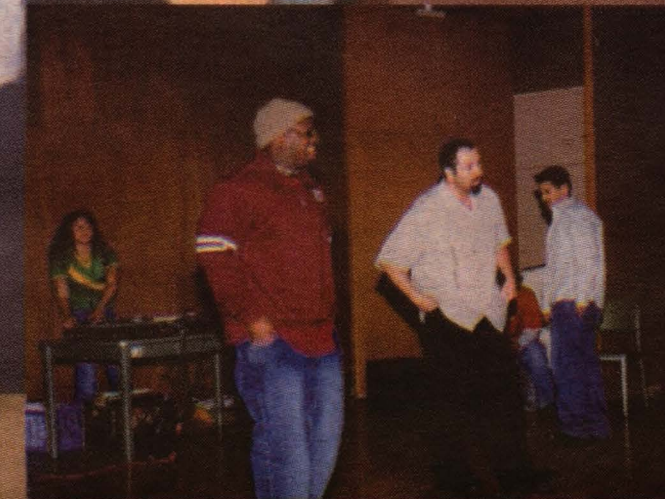
University Theatre
UC Riverside



THURSDAY APRIL 8, 8PM THA WORKSHOP

This unique workshop puts you in the mix by giving you the opportunity to build a Hip-Hop theatre piece under the guidance of experts.

Theatre Lab, Humn 411
UC Riverside



FRIDAY APRIL 9, 8PM THA WORD

An evening of spoken word by A Mic and Dim Lights Alumni; the second longest running spoken word spot in Southern California BLOWS UP UCR!

Theatre Lab, Humn 411
UC Riverside

Hip Hopn Stage

by Una-Karim Cross

If you take a look back down the hill-inhale and stick your chest out. You've arrived. The potential of today's poets, musicians, and funky-beat driven lyricists has No Limits. With barriers in place to shut 'em down, radiogrammers have been forced to rejuvenate their playlists to include rap artists and MC's. Parents who thought their children would never get em of straight-leg Lee jeans or GUESS, woke up to a surprisingly different Dick and Jane. Clad in drop-crotch jeans, LL Cool J jeans and oversized footterseys today's youth made the world stop and take notice (not to mention their incredible buying power).

For all its many dimensions and facets from Isreal Here to Roxanne Shante, Enemy to Wu Tang, Puffy to Jay-Z, Timbaland/Missy to Master P, from Diggable Planets to... this musical electrode has kept Hip Hop iz' ringing'.

With the eagerly anticipated anticipation one can expect an increase in privity on the Hip Hop circuit. The blood of the Hip Hop culture artist runs deep and boils with passion regarding personal and societal ills. Low Hip Hop genre theater pieces to sweep the country. The theater movement will incorporate something more than a 'form letter' theme featuring MC. The theater movement will focus on the theatrical talents of many Blacks, Latinos, Asians and others as sent from this spectacular mea while featuring the dramatic writing styles of the ultra talented.

Be prepared as Hip Hopn Stage is not a dream.

Tha Participants 2004 Festival

TUESDAY

THA PANEL

Mark Gonzales

Poet/organizer Mark Gonzales is helping reshape public perception of language and resistance. After helping lead the 2001 Long Beach National Slam Team to their West Coast Regional Champions, Mark proceeded to travel across coasts as a poet, and across continents as a creative journalist. Originally from Alaska, this Xicano has represented several national Slam teams, spoken in front of members of the United Nations, recorded for HBO's Def Poetry Jam, rocked audiences in New York City, Berkeley, Philadelphia and Seattle, and recently returned from Palestine. Mark has performed at over 100 campuses as a poet alongside artists such as Medusa, Burning Star, Cody Chestnutt, as well as with human rights groups and activists such as Yuri Kochiyama, Cesar Cruz, Critical Resistance, Tariq Ali, and the M.O.V.E. organization. He is a member of the Mic and Dim Lights Alumni, whose performances creatively advocate social justice, as well as an organizer for the End-Dependence collective, whose East and West Coast tour gathered critical acclaim for its addressing of the division between Xicano, Central American, and other ethnic communities.

In December of 2003, Mark traveled to Palestine as part of the MPAC Alternative Media Project, documenting first hand the struggle of an Occupied People as a means of providing alternative media resources through spoken word and hip-hop. Since his return, he has created several Hip Hop Theater and spoken word performances that deal with issues of Occupation, Human Rights, and economic democracy. He is currently working with several artists on "Occupied People: Liberated Voices", an audio and visual documentary that utilizes the creative language of spoken word, hip-hop, and speeches to discuss current and historical realities of Occupation and its relation to other global struggles for social justice. In 2005, he will be attending the World Social Forum in 2005 with a delegation of activists and artists in order to create and strengthen links between continents inside and outside of the Americas.

Nikol Hodges

Nikol Hodges is an actress, playwright and youth activist who has performed before audiences professionally for over eleven years. She is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and AFTA and has been a featured performer on several television shows including a co-starring role on the award winning Judging Amy and a supporting role with Richard Dreyfus in The Education of Max Bickford. Hodges has also appeared in several independent films including Prentice Penny's Soul Talkin' which won critical acclaim at the Souldance Film Festival and has run on Black STARZ.

Nikol is also a youth activist who uses theater and Hip hop to incite youth to develop a critical consciousness for social change in their communities. She helped start the Hip hop Archive at the W.E.B Du Bois Institute, Harvard University with Professor Marcyliena Morgan and writes a column on Hip hop Theater for the archive webzine. She has delivered numerous programs to Los Angeles' underserved youth and was recently an artist in residence for The HeART Project, an organization that provides art programs to youth in continuation high schools. Hodges is currently a PhD Student at The University of Southern California and has performed at colleges and universities across the United States including Harvard, The University of California, Los Angeles. In May she will perform at The University of Leeds in England. For booking information, please contact nrhodes@usc.edu.

LeVan Hawkins

What would James Baldwin do is a question performance artist, poet and essayist LeVan Hawkins often asks himself. Hawkins has been reading Baldwin since he was ten years old -they share much in common: they were both raised in the church, both African-American, both gay, and grew up in Black neighborhoods, Baldwin, in Harlem, Hawkins in the small all-Black, mid-western town of Robbins, Illinois.

After attending the Art Institute of Chicago and graduating with a degree in theater, Hawkins experimented with acting, screenwriting, public speaking and essay writing. With the solo performance genre, he found the vehicle to incorporate all his interests. With the passion of a soul singer and Baptist minister, in a short time has established himself as a formidable artist in the Los Angeles area and has recently began to venture out beyond

Los Angeles.

His written work has appeared in such publications as the LA Times, LA Weekly, LA & SF Frontiers and the Sacramento News and Review.

WEDNESDAY

THA PERFORMANCE

M.C. Besskepp (Cory Cofer) is a poet/storyteller raised on Langston Hughes and Public Enemy. Twice named Teacher of the Year, Besskepp was featured in the Los Angeles Times, for incorporating Hip Hop in the classroom. He has recently taped for Russell Simmons Def Poetry on HBO and is slated to appear in late spring for the upcoming 4th season. He has traveled throughout the country as a member of the Los Angeles National Slam Teams of 2000 and 2001. Besskepps' poetry addresses pertinent issues as equal rights, single-parent households, education, homelessness and the influences of Hip Hop on our society. He is credited for tackling social issues with an animated grace. Besskepp is the founder and host of A Mic and Dim Lights, the 2nd largest weekly poetry reading in California, and A Mic and Dim Lights Alumni which is a collective of poets that travel around the country performing spoken word. The "Alumni" has recently teamed up with Claremont University for a program called Borrowed Voices in which they teach writing workshops at juvenile facilities throughout Southern CA. Rock and Rap confidential described Besskepps' 1st CD Bluze Langwij as "The most musical mixture of spoken word with the instrumental truth..." Besskepp has been a featured poet of over 100 colleges, youth camps, concerts, coffee houses, festivals and cafes combined.

Straight From Tha Underground/Hedz/102midnight

In addition to his mission to open up the theater to a diversity of voices and experiences, Rickerby Hinds is driven to bring the theater to new audiences. In *Straight From Tha Underground* he examines the issue of freedom by chronicling the experiences of a B-Boy from Compton who is mystically transported back to 1863. Having played in venues as disparate as university theaters, churches, community centers, and national conferences, *Underground* highlights Hinds' ability to craft stories and dialogue that impact audiences across racial, educational, economic and generational lines. In *Keep Hedz Ringin'*, an adaptation of Richard Wagner's *Ring of the Niebelung*, Hinds makes the ultimate connection between tradition and innovation... demonstrating that Hip Hop culture and expression, like grand opera, has the ability to elevate both its practitioners and its audiences to unprecedented heights of human understanding. Encompassing both mission and vision, *Hedz* epitomizes Hinds' belief in what theater can accomplish when approached from a truly inclusive starting point. *102midnight* is a collaborative of 10 minute productions written by performers under Hinds' direction.

THURSDAY

THA WORKSHOP

FACILITATORS

RICKERBY HINDS

On of the most influential individuals to come into the theater world in a generation, Rickerby Hinds has the unique ability to challenge conventional notions of the stage while remaining respectful of its long history and traditions. Possessing an MFA in playwriting from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and television where he was twice awarded the Audrey Skirball-Kenis(ASK) Award for best play, Hinds' visionary creations span the gamut of human emotions and experiences. Currently an Assistant Professor of Playwriting in the Department of Theater at the University of California, Riverside and the creator of the Cali Hip Hop Theater Festival, Hinds has also taught at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Redlands. Among the entities that have supported his work in the form of commissions, grants, and fellowships are: the Ford Foundation, the Showtime Television Network, ASK Theater Projects, the GeVa Theatre in New York, the Mark Taper Forum, the Cornerstone Theatre, and the Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Institutions such as Stanford University, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, the University of Houston, Howard University and the University of Aarhus, Denmark are just some of the entities that have hosted Hinds.

Leon "Brother Dvooa" Clayborne is a 23 year old Inland Empire

native. His focus is to use the art of dance and spoken word as a tool to reach the youth or just people in general. Also to provide a positive and unique perception of Hip Hop culture, spoken word and dance. He has done dance openings for artist such as KRS One and Trek Life. Some of his spoken word performances include The African Market Place, UCLA, USC and UCR Hip Hop Theatre festival.

FRIDAY

THA WORD

Tamara Blue is a 25 year old pre-school teacher that uses her patience and clarity to impact the world through poetry. A soft spoken woman with hard hitting words, she can be seen making young women cry and older women feel proud. Speaking on issues from faith to fashion with one goal in mind, to motivate and inspire. Tamara's poetry leaves you thinking "what can I do to change that" or "what can I do to change me". Tamara can be seen throughout her community speaking and sharing at churches, schools, rehabilitation centers and local poetry venues. Tamara plans to become a high school guidance counselor focusing on pre-teen and teenager girls.

Ame Damayo, singer/songwriter/poet, has been performing her original music throughout Southern California. Her upbringing as a Filipino-American has guided her to use her voice to express the ancestral voices that have lived before her. Her music unifies time by bridging classical music styles of the past to soulful harmonies of today. Her passion to create has spilled into the territory of poetry and the spokenword. She is currently working on her first full length CD to be released next summer. "The vision I have for my music and poetry is simple: I want to create music that reflects my soul and at the same time allows listeners the opportunity to connect emotionally. Music and poetry by nature are infinite and the only limits they have are those we as a society place on them."

Kathryn (Simply Kat) Magill was raised in Landover Hills, MD and moved to southern California at the age of 15. At the age of 17, she began speaking at various spokenword venues and became involved in the community of language arts. Now at the age of 20, she has performed at various colleges such as University of Redlands and University of Riverside. She has also performed at multiple festivals, high schools, and artistic events within the Southern California. Her poetry is known for touching on diverse issues including racial prejudice, self motivation, and musical influences. Kathryn's background in poetry, dance, and art keeps her well rounded reaching a diverse audience.

Everett (Manchild) Vigil: More of a description, his name embraces the contradicting dichotomy of being a responsible adult, fused with a passionate need to continue to live out childhood dreams. This couldn't be truer for Manchild as an artist. His poetic skills have taken him from California, to New York, and more than a handful of States in between; performing alongside some of the most well known and respected poets of today. Manchild uses his poetry as a form of therapy to enlighten, educate, and to encourage youth to express themselves through the arts. As a Mexican American in today's society, Manchild utilizes his talents as a writer to dispel common stereotypes and misinformation surrounding his culture. He is finishing his working credentials in Riverside California, where he currently works with high school students at A.B. Miller High school. "My goal is to create opportunities for low-income and ethnically diverse children through creative self-expression."

Charles (Bomani) Watson, a spokenword artist and photographer, currently resides in Los Angeles, California. Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he first began writing as substitute for conversations he didn't have with his father as a youth. Black and white photographs by Gordon Parks, those documenting Jim Crow times, the civil rights era, and the Harlem Renaissance artists, musicians, and writers were especially fascinating. He thought it astonishing that looking at pictures made him hear poetry. Sharing his stage time as a performance poet, he earned a BS in Electrical Engineering. Bomani has traveled the U.S. performing spokenword in various cities. His writing encompasses a unique blend of social-politics, reality, fantasy, hip-hop, and love.

UCR DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE COMING EVENTS

May 7, 8, 14 & 15, Friday & Saturday, 8:00pm

May 15, Saturday, 2:30pm Matinee

INTO THE WOODS Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by James Lapine Directed and choreographed by Jim Alexander Baker and wife, cursed with childlessness by the Witch, must steal and swindle Cinderella, Little Red, Rapunzel and Jack in this lively, irreverent fairy tale. 5 Performances University Theatre \$18 General, \$12 Students & Seniors Parking: \$4 in Lot 6 (No fee with UC permit)

May 11 & 12, Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:30 - 9:30pm

May 13, Thursday, Callbacks only

AUDITIONS

PLAYWORKS by UCR Playwrights

Premiere productions exploring issues and textures of contemporary life by the best UCR student playwrights. A different slate of work is scheduled for each performance. Rehearsals Begin: May 17 Production Runs: May 27 - 29, (4 performances) Clothing: Simple, business-like; flat shoes; hair back and away from face. Cast members must be registered UCR students Theatre Lab, HUMN 411 Parking: \$5 permits available at Information Kiosks

May 27 - 29, Thursday - Saturday, 8:00pm

May 29, Saturday, 2:30pm Matinee

PLAYWORKS by UCR Playwrights Premiere productions exploring issues and textures of contemporary life by the best UCR student playwrights. A different slate of work is scheduled for each performance. 4 Performances: Theatre Lab, HUMN 411 Admission: Free Parking: \$4 in Lot 6 (No fee with UC permit)

June 1 & 2, Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:30 - 9:30pm

June 3, Thursday, Callbacks only

AUDITIONS for Fall 2004 Clothing: Simple, business-like; flat shoes; hair back and away from face. Reading Copies: Reserve Book Room at Rivera Library Cast members must be registered in THEA 170 Studio Theatre, ARTS 113 Parking: \$5 permits available at Information Kiosks

TICKETS: (909) 787-4331 Fine Arts Ticket Office: located on campus at the University Theatre adjacent to Lot 6 Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:00am- 4:00pm and one hour before performances.

ARTS Ticket Office: located on campus at the ARTS Building at the University Avenue entrance to UCR across from Lot 1

INFORMATION: (909) 787-3245 www.theatre.ucr.edu E-mail kathleen.deatley@ucr.edu to receive email notices about new developments in plays, concerts and lectures.



Hip Hop Theater Camp

Ages 13-18

(Entering Freshman year in high school)

July-18-23

UCLA

College credit is also available to students who attend this camp

Hip-hop theater is the latest element to emerge from this generation of American youth culture. Hip-Hop theater is theater that uses any of the four founding elements of hip-hop culture as the primary language of the stage; those four elements being: rappin', breakdancing, DJ'ing and Graffiti art. The Hip Hop Theater camp has the sensibility of hip hop but combines techniques of traditional theater. The camp will explore hip-hop theater beginning with an exposition on the culture that spawned it. It will break down the elements of hip-hop and how it evolved. In addition the camp will introduce the basic elements of theater: the stage, the playwright, the director, lighting and sound, designers. Campers will then fuse the elements together in an artistic expression of "hip-hop" theater to be presented as a "work in progress." National expert and University of California Riverside Professor Rickerby Hinds is the leading authority in this field and will head this ground-breaking camp.

usperformingartscamps.com